The International Union Against Cancer (UICC) hails the adoption of the world’s first resolution on cancer prevention and control by Ministers of Health at the 58th World Health Assembly in Geneva at the end of May.

“For the 25 million people living with cancer today and the millions more who will get the disease if we fail to act, it is encouraging that cancer is now being treated with the seriousness it deserves,” said Isabel Mortara, Executive Director of the International Union Against Cancer.

“UICC congratulates its members, whose work and commitment, not just in recent weeks but over many years, have contributed to this day,” said Isabel Mortara.

Now UICC calls for concerted efforts from governments, civil society and international organisations to ensure rapid implementation.

“We need to share knowledge and best practices, improve human and financial resources, and build local capacities in every country. We need partnerships at local and global levels.”

UICC advocates that every country needs a national cancer control plan, with evidence-based interventions that include prevention, early detection, treatment, and palliative care, and an emphasis on affordable, cost-effective, and accessible techniques.

Earlier this month, Isabel Mortara represented UICC at the first meeting of the WHO Cancer Advisory Committee to the Director-General in Geneva.

Read more: http://www.uicc.org/

Cancer and Tobacco: Global Voices, Global Action

To mark World No Tobacco Day 2005, on 31 May, the International Union Against Cancer released Cancer and Tobacco: Global Voices, Global Action.

“Cancer and Tobacco: Global Voices, Global Action paints a vivid picture of the deadly toll of tobacco-related cancer throughout the world,” said Dr Sinéad Jones, Head of Tobacco Control at UICC.

“It highlights the need for concerted action to curb tobacco use: promoting awareness, protecting young people, helping patients, and supporting effective public policies, such as the WHO Framework Convention for Tobacco Control.

“Cancer and Tobacco: Global Voices, Global Action also shows how across the globe, the cancer community – oncologists, nurses, volunteers, researchers, workers with cancer organisations and many more – is working to build a better, tobacco-free future,” said Sinéad Jones.

During May 2005, UICC invited the cancer community to send statements of support for World No Tobacco Day. Organisations and individuals from over 60 countries responded. Many sent personal statements describing the impact of tobacco on their work, communities and countries. UICC expresses its thanks to all who supported this initiative.

Here are some of the statements…

Across the world, the global cancer community is working for a tobacco-free future, through cancer societies … There are more than 20 million people
Knowledge Transfer

Deadline of 1 July for international study grant applications

Investigators, clinicians and public health professionals actively engaged in cancer research are invited to apply for Yamagiwa Yoshida Memorial UICC International Cancer Study Grants. These grants enable cancer investigators from any country to carry out bilateral research projects abroad to exploit complementary materials or skills, including advanced training in experimental methods or special techniques.

Reminder 1 July 2005 application deadline

Read more: http://www.uicc.org/index.php?id=957

TNM Core Group

A TNM Prognostic Factors Core Group Meeting was held in Geneva on 3-4 May 2005. The main actions from the meeting were the appointment of 88 experts to the TNM Panel of Experts (for 2005 to 2008), and timing for completion of a literature watch in preparation for the 7th Edition of the TNM Classification. In addition, four new national TNM Committees have been established in Brazil, Spain, Poland and Singapore in addition to those of Canada, US, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Japan and France. The Chairs of all national Committees are members of the Global TNM Advisory Group.

Read more: http://www.uicc.org/index.php?id=508

Awards and Celebrations

Tobacco Control achievements recognised

WHO Europe recently recognised the outstanding achievements of the British Medical Association's Tobacco Control Resource Centre (TCRC) with a Gold Medal – particularly for their work with health professionals. Under the inspired leadership of Sinéad Jones (now, UICC Head of Tobacco Control) and from this year of Tanith Muller, that's just what the TCRC has been doing for six years. Congratulations from UICC!

Read more: http://www.doctorsandtobacco.org

who smoke in Turkey. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer mortality. The Turkish Association for Cancer Research is fighting against cancer as a strong advocate of anti-tobacco activities.

Prof Tezer Kutluk, Turkey

In some remote districts of Nepal, it has been found that 71% of women smoke – perhaps the highest rate of smoking among women anywhere in the world…Our organisation is focusing on an awareness program throughout the country to promote a comprehensive approach to tobacco control.

Mr Diwakar Rajkarnikar, MBA
National President, Nepal Cancer Relief Society, Kathmandu, Nepal

Curbing tobacco use is a priority in cancer control.
The most important thing in our country is to prevent and stop smoking, and to take all possible steps to decrease the production of cigarettes. This is especially true in my province, Hunan, which is one of the most important for tobacco production in China.

Prof Zhongshu Yan
Professor of Surgery (Oncology), Changsha, China

And still, the problem keeps growing.
Smoking among young people has risen remarkably in our country and we see more and more new cancers among younger people every day.

Dr Reza Khodabakhshi
Radiation Oncologist, Tehran, Iran

Tobacco-related problems in India are on the rise. Besides smoking, chewing tobacco is common. Oral and oropharyngeal precancerous conditions such as leukoplakia, erythroplakia and submucous fibrosis are extremely common here. The increasing incidence of oral and oropharyngeal malignancy is quite alarming.

Prof Dipak Ranjan Nayak, MS, FICS
ENT and Head & Neck Surgeon, India

Read more: http://www.uicc.org
RRI conference claims more support for women with breast cancer

Over 300 delegates from 40 countries attended the 13th Reach to Recovery International UICC Breast Cancer Support Conference, which was hosted by the Hellenic Association of Women with Breast Cancer and the Society of Volunteers Against Cancer in Athens, from 1-4 June 2005.

"Though we are winning the battle against breast cancer on several fronts, we have to work together to reduce the discrepancies which exist in quality care for women with breast cancer", said Ms Ranjit Kaur, President of RRI and breast cancer survivor. "UICC is working to ensure a quality of life is available globally, which includes psychosocial support offered by women with similar experiences".

Within the theme "Today's Reality, Tomorrow Perspectives", the conference included topics such as psychosocial challenges for the family, importance of volunteerism, advocacy and breast cancer research. Far more than a conference, it was an opportunity to share information and experiences, with laughter and hugs on top of the agenda.

Recommendations included that regional breast cancer support programmes be planned to meet country needs; guidelines for the management of breast cancer be established and regularly reviewed; further breast cancer research be promoted; peer support be available for all women with breast cancer to improve quality of life; and the importance of psychosocial component in breast cancer treatment be recognised.

The 2005 Terese Lasser Award was presented to Mrs Ann Steyn, National Coordinator for the Reach to Recovery International programme in South Africa in recognition of her work in supporting women with breast cancer and training volunteers from other African countries. The Reach to Recovery International Medal was presented to Mr Robert Hudson from Ireland for his support to women with breast cancer, their families and volunteers. He was also the catalyst in the development of the Reach to Recovery International programme.

The 3rd Asia Pacific Reach to Recovery International UICC Breast Cancer Support Conference will be held in Mumbai, India from 1-6 November 2006. The venue for the 14th Reach to Recovery International UICC Breast Cancer Support Conference for 2007 was announced - Stockholm, Sweden.

Cancer prevention and survivorship at 2005 ASCO Meeting

At the 41st Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) last month in Florida, included more than 30 educational and scientific offerings on cancer prevention, including a four-hour educational symposium The Underlying Principles of Cancer Prevention: Lessons Learned, Opportunities, and Challenges. This enhanced focus on cancer prevention was to highlight its growing importance; and to help oncology professionals gain a greater understanding of the scientific basis of preventive interventions and about decision-making at the earliest stages of carcinogenesis. Specific topics included prevention of prostate cancer, colon cancer and melanoma; nutritional strategies for prevention; chemoprevention for lung cancer; targeting of apoptotic mechanisms to delay carcinogenesis; and the role of human papilloma virus vaccines in the prevention of cervical cancer.
Numerous studies focusing on the medical and psychosocial needs of cancer survivors were also released at the 41st Annual ASCO Meeting. "Progress against cancer has led to a growing number of cancer survivors who face a range of physical, emotional and practical issues for many years after treatment ends," said Sandra J. Horning, MD, ASCO President-elect, Professor of Medicine at Stanford University School of Medicine.

"These studies show us that relatively simple measures may help survivors reduce the chance that cancer will return, while others indicate that cancer survivors still have significant issues to deal with in the years following treatment, requiring follow-up care."

Studies highlighted during an ASCO press briefing found that:

- Eating a low-fat diet reduced the risk of breast cancer recurrence in postmenopausal women compared with women following a standard diet.
- Colon cancer patients receiving standard therapies who also used aspirin had a reduced risk of cancer recurrence and longer survival.
- Among adult survivors of childhood cancers treated in the 1970s and 1980s, the risk of having a moderate to severe health problem is five times greater than that of their healthy siblings.
- Most survivors of cancer experience significant psychosocial effects, with the majority reporting that they felt their physicians were unable to help address such non-medical needs.

Read more: www.PLWC.org

Introducing the UICC World Cancer Campaign

The World Cancer Campaign is directly in line with the Charter of Paris adopted during the 2000 World Summit Against Cancer for the New Millennium. It called for "an invincible alliance - between researchers, healthcare professionals, patients, government, industry and media - to fight cancer and its greatest allies, which are fear, ignorance and complacency." The World Cancer Campaign theme for 2006 will be "my child matters".

"With the involvement of UICC members in this campaign, together we can raise awareness of the profound impact and often irreversible shock that childhood cancers can have on entire families," said JJ Divino, UICC Campaigns and Communications Manager.

The first meeting of the UICC Childhood Cancer Campaign Advisory Steering Committee took place on 10 May 2005. Dr Franco Cavalli, Chair of the Committee and President-elect of UICC, opened the meeting, noting that most of the roughly 100,000 children who die of cancer each year could be spared, if given optimal treatment and adequate care.

In partnership with sanofi-aventis, UICC will provide grant monies of up to €50,000 during the first year of the campaign. The aim is to support catalytic projects that are not time-limited and would eventually become self-sustaining, by attracting income from other sources.

The following were identified as priority countries for Year One on the grounds that these were countries in which campaign funds could make a significant difference in combating childhood cancer:

- Americas: Honduras, Venezuela
- Asia/Pacific: Bangladesh, the Philippines, Vietnam
- Europe: Ukraine
- Middle East: Egypt
- North Africa: Morocco
- Sub-Saharan Africa: Senegal, Tanzania

UICC will also be developing a "How-to" campaign toolkit, with ideas for in-country roll-out of the campaign including collateral such as brochures, posters, fact sheets, and media releases. Media efforts will culminate on World Cancer Day, 4 February 2006, with the official launch of the campaign, the international announcement of the 10 selected projects, and the presentation of the report, "my child matters".

For more details of how to submit a project, please contact Campaign Coordinator, JJ Divino email: mychildmatters@uicc.org

France inaugurates the national cancer centre

The French National Institute of Cancer (INCA) was inaugurated on 24 May in Paris, after being introduced in France's 2003 Cancer Plan. The Institut National du Cancer will have several roles:

- Implementation of the French Cancer Plan through coordination and evaluation of national policy and coordinating the action of the 7 regional canceropoles;
- Information centre for patients and professionals;
- Watchdog on equality of access to treatment, ensuring equal chances of survival wherever patients live;
- A quality reference point, putting in place quality standards and best practice guidelines for clinicians and working with Agence Nationale d’Accréditation et d'Évaluation en Santé (ANAES) to ensure that standards of care and treatment are consistent throughout France;
- Coordination and financing of cancer research;
- Act as a contact point for the European Union and international action.

Read more: http://www.sante.gouv.fr/htm/actu/31_050524.htm
Showcasing the
John Tung Foundation, Taiwan

Since it was founded on 19 May 1984 by John Tung with the support of David Yen, the John Tung Foundation's guiding philosophy has been to promote respect for life. Highly regarded by both the Taiwanese people and the government, the Foundation works in three main fields: tobacco control, mental health and nutrition. Over the last 20 years, the foundation has had three permanent teams elaborating this work. The foundation has also been very active in promoting protection of the environment, and has tackled many other public health issues.

"From social campaigns to the enactment of the Tobacco Hazard Control Act, the John Tung Foundation has been devoted to tobacco control since its establishment in 1984. Our ultimate goal is a smoke-free Asia and we are determined to achieve it," said Jenn-Tai Hwang, CEO of the John Tung Foundation.

To unite the anti-tobacco strength of Asian countries the John Tung Foundation co-founded Asia Pacific Association for the Control of Tobacco (APACT) in 1989.

"Besides countering pressure from the tobacco industry, the most specific issue the foundation is working on is amending the Tobacco Hazard Control Act in Taiwan. This act has been in force for more than seven years without modification. We have proposed an amendment which requests four main aspects - increasing the taxation of tobacco products; increasing the size of health warning messages, to 60% of the principal display surface of cigarette packages; administering smoke-free environments in indoor public areas and working places; and totally prohibiting tobacco advertising and promotion," said Jenn-Tai Hwang.

Main 2005 activities
1. Organising the Anti-Tobacco Alliance of Taiwan (ATAT), grouping other non-governmental organisations against tobacco
2. Amending the Tobacco Hazard Control Act of Taiwan so that it conforms to the spirit of FCTC
3. Promoting "Asia Smoke-Free" - a smoke-free environment in Asia to achieve the goal of APACT

Read more: http://www.jtf.org.tw/JTF01/01-04.asp

Introducing the Hungarian League Against Cancer

The Hungarian League Against Cancer, established in 1990, is aiding in the fight against cancer at a national level. Its goals are the promotion of health, early detection of cancer, patient support, and the elaboration and implementation of rehabilitation programs. The League focuses on raising awareness of early detection of cancer (through health education, information on self-examination, promotion of cancer screening), as well as prevention through anti-smoking information campaigns.

"As part of supporting patients, the Hungarian League Against Cancer provides information on pain management, to improve the quality of life of cancer patients. We also supply psychological support, both in person and through an anonymous hot-line," said Mrs. Katalin Vasváry, President, Hungarian League Against Cancer.

Improving recognition of patients' rights in patient care (therapy, medicines) and in a legal framework are two other major priorities of the League.
"We address the society through our traditional and popular events, such as the World Cancer Day, National Anti-Cancer Day, conferences, press conferences, and a children's day."

**IVth Conference on patient’s rights**

Almost 250 participants attended the Patient's Rights Conference, hosted by Hungarian League Against Cancer, held on 6 May. There was considerable media interest in the conference. Presentations covered the rights of patients and of physicians, the harmony of ethics and law, the role of the forensic medical expert in the process of the reimbursement of medicines, and pain management in Hungary.

**Live with cancer: the cancer patient’s day**

The Hungarian Society of Clinical Oncology together with the Hungarian League Against Cancer, and two other civil organisations organised a cancer patient's day in Budapest. The program, named "Live with Cancer" was held on 4 June.

**UIICC welcomes a new member**

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation has recently become a member of UIICC. Located in Dallas, Texas, the Foundation is fighting to eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease by funding research grants and supporting education, screening and treatment projects in communities around the world.

**Off the press**

**The link between physical activity and ovarian cancer**

A new study, published online on 16 May 2005 in the *International Journal of Cancer*, the official journal of the International Union Against Cancer (UIICC), found that regular, moderate recreational and work-related physical activity may reduce the risk of ovarian cancer.

"...Our population-based study observed a reduced risk of ovarian cancer among women engaged in higher levels of moderate but not vigorous recreational physical activity," the authors state. They add that the results from Ontario suggest that work-related activity also affords protection against the disease.


**Coming events**

**2nd International Francophone Conference on Tobacco Control**

Paris, France, 18–20 September 2005

La France s’honneur d’accueillir la Deuxième Conférence Internationale Francophone sur le Contrôle du Tabac, qui réunira à Paris les acteurs francophones décisifs dans la lutte contre les effets sanitaires et sociaux de l’usage du tabac.

France is honoured to welcome this conference, which will bring together in Paris the decisive francophone actors in the struggle against the health and social effects of tobacco use.

**UICC World Cancer Congress 2006 Bridging the Gap:**

**Transforming Knowledge into Action**

Washington, DC, 8–12 July 2006

The UICC World Cancer Congress will bring together the world's leaders in the fight to control cancer. It will focus on transforming the latest knowledge into strategies that countries, communities, institutions and individuals can employ to reduce the cancer burden.

The congress is followed on 12–15 July by the 13th World Conference on Tobacco OR Health, with a crossover day on Tuesday 12 July.

**Read more:** [www.2006conferences.org](http://www.2006conferences.org)